Request to modify Annapurna Yojana by Karnataka Government

853. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has requested for modifying the 'Annapurna Yojana' so as to provide 10 Kgs. of foodgrains per month free of cost to all destitutes aged over 65 years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) The Annapurna Scheme, alongwith the National Social Assistance Programme comprising the National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Family Benefit Scheme, has been transferred to the State Plan with effect from the financial year, 2002-03. The funds for the transferred schemes will be released by the Ministry of finance as Additional Central Assistance to the State Plan and the States/UTs would have the requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the schemes.

The Government of Karnataka had requested for modifying the 'Annapurna Yojana' by extending it to all persons who are already covered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme when the scheme was being administered as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Impact of rural development schemes after merger

854. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent has the merging of different rural development schemes improved the performance of the rural development delivery system;

(b) what was the percentage reach/spread of the delivery system when it was done through multi scheme system; and

(c) what is it at present under Single Umbrella Scheme?